(c) whether Pakistan has already introduced licencing system for ATCs as an abundant safety measure and if so, whether India is likely to follow suit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The International Civil Aviation Organization has introduced Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) of 1000 feet for aircraft flying between the flight levels of 29000 feet to 41000 feet over the airspace of South East Asia including India. This reduced vertical separation would be able to accomodate more number of aircraft in the airspace.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No information is available with regard to introduction of licensing system for Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) in Pakistan.

Modernisation of Airports in Southern States

644. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the on-going projects of modernisation of airports in the Southern States, State-wise and airport-wise; and

(b) what is the present status of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing projects for modernization of airports in the Southern States alongwith their status are as under.

ANDHRA PRADESH—Extension and resurfacing of runway, apron, taxi-track and construction of parallel tax-track with shoulders including bridge etc. at Hyderabad airport is in progress and likely to be completed by June 2004. Development of Vishakhapatnam airport is in progress and likely to be completed by September 2005.

KARNATAKA—Selection of contractors for construction of new runway and allied works at Mangalore airport is in progress and its completion period is 24 months from the date of award of work.

KERALA—Expansion and modification of existing international terminal building and existing domestic terminal building at Calicut airport is in progress and likely to be completed by December 2005. At Trivandrum International airport, work for strengthening of main runway and taxiway has been awarded in April 2003 and is likely to be completed by May 2004. Also the work for standardisation of perimeter wall and fencing of operational are is in progress and likely to be completed by October 2004.

TAMIL NADU—At Chennai International airport, providing, fixing and commissioning water softening/treatment for existing water supply system

to be completed by this month extension of tax-track from international apron to runway 07 to be completed by May 2004, strengthening & resurfacing to Reinforced Cement Concrete slabs to be completed by March 2004 and extension of canopy on city side to be completed by September 2004 at kamraj Domestic Terminal Strengthening and extension of runway, apron, link taxi-track and associated works at Coimbatore airport and strengthening & extension of runway and associated works at Trichy airport are likely to be completed by March 2005.

AL's code sharing agreement with Lufthansa

645. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct flights to the USA from Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi have been introduced as a result of new code sharing agreement between Air India and Lufthansa; and

(b) if so, details of the flights so introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Global partnership for safe air travel

646. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for global partnership to make air travel fully secure;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether a conference on Civil Aviation Safety and Security was held in New Delhi recently; and

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) India is an active member of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the apex UN body in the field of civil aviation, which, *inter-aila*, sets standards and regulations necessary for the safety and security of international air transport.

(c) and (d) Under the framework of Indo-European Union (EU) Civil Aviation Cooperation Project, an international Conference on "Civil Aviation Safety and Security" was held in Delhi on 15-16 October, 2003. This conference provided a forum to address the security and safety related issues in an interactive manner.